

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-7, 9-15 and 17-25 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 13, and 23 having been amended by the present amendment.

First, Applicants would like to bring to the attention of the Examiner that this application is related to Application Serial No. 09/735,614.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Humpleman et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the command data transmitted to the external device includes commands for controlling the external device and in which the command data is initially stored in the memory of the audio/video apparatus and is not retrieved from the external device. Independent claim 13 includes similar features in the varying scope.

Thus, according to the present invention, a centralized approach is used (i.e., by storing the command/menus in one centralized location/memory 8 of the audio/video apparatus as shown in Fig. 1, for example). Therefore, with reference to Fig. 1, the present invention advantageously reduces the amount of transmissions required between the audio/video apparatus 100 and the external device 200 (i.e., the command/menus do not have to be “fetched” from each individual device prior to allowing the user to control the device).

On the contrary, in Humpleman et al., all of the control commands related to each home device are stored on the home device itself as clearly described in col. 8, lines 5-12. Therefore, in Humpleman et al., the control commands for controlling the external devices must first be fetched from the external devices. This distributed approach does not correspond with the centralized approach of the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 13 and each claim dependent therefrom are allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 9, 10, 17, 18 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Miller. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar comments apply to independent claim 23 as that discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13 regarding Humpleman et al. Miller also does not teach or suggest the features noted above. Further, the other dependent claims 9, 10, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 25 are dependent claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully independent claim 23 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in views of Elsbree has also been overcome as these claims are dependent claims and Elsbree also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the independent claims.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$1,020.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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